

treading down the dead and dying. The history of those nations is marked in blood and tears.

How much better is the world now, in any point of view, than in former days? What blessings have the great men of former ages handed down to posterity? Were they all collected, they would appear in little room. It is true there has been some little knowledge of chemistry and astronomy developed. And I question very much whether the people now know more about astronomy than Abraham and Joseph of old did, after all their problems and calculations, and all the intelligence of the schools in relation to this branch of science.

It is true we have obtained a little knowledge of the power of steam and electricity, and have been able to use magnetism and many other such principles which possess some utility at the present time to the human family. But how much better off is the world of mankind now than they were four or five thousand years ago? I do not know. If anybody else does, I should like them to tell me. Tell me how much more union there is now than then, how much more happiness there is now than formerly, how much more conversant the world is now with correct principles than the world was in what is called the dark ages, and how much better principles they are governed by than they were thousands of years ago. They then had their republics, their monarchies, and their despotisms. There is as much of the spirit of war in existence now as in any previous age of the world.

Witness the present position of Europe and China; witness the position of Mexico, Central America, and the United States, of America at the present time; witness the bitter hatred that exists between the North and South in the bosoms of the Representatives in the halls of

the nation at Washington, which is manifested when in the Senate chamber.

How much better, then, are we in the present age than the people of other ages? And what is man in reality, with all his boasted intelligence and knowledge? He is a poor, weak worm of the earth.

Look at him in a social capacity. Are we much better off now socially than the people were several thousand years ago, with all the teachings of our philosophers and moralists, and with all the essays there have been written, combined with all the influence of the Priesthood of the present day? Men are paid in our age for doing a great deal, and they ought to accomplish, at least, something. As I told a Catholic priest once in France, when speaking of the position of France—I said, "There are some fifty thousand Catholic priests in France; and if Catholicism does not produce an influence in this nation, it ought to; for there is enough money paid to sustain men to do good among the people."

When we contemplate all these things, how weak and inefficient and poor and feeble and contemptible man appears! How little he has accomplished for the benefit of his fellow man, or for succeeding generations!

"What is man, that thou art mindful of him?"

What is he? Let us look again and view him in another aspect. Why, he is an eternal being, and possessed within him a principle that is destined to exist "while life and thought and being last or immortality endures." What is he? He had his being in the eternal worlds; he existed before he came here. He is not only the Son of man, but he is the Son of God also. He is a God in embryo, and possesses within him a spark of that eternal flame which was struck from